

Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Darryl Boykins



Darryl Boykins is a Captain in the South Bend Police Department. In 1987, Captain Boykins became the first black K-9 police officer in South Bend. His expansive dedication to the local community also includes being director of the Police Athletic League, a youth sporting initiative that pairs police officers and children in boxing and tennis to show peaceful and positive ways to resolve frustrations. Born in Chicago, he eventually settled in South Bend where he studied at Ivy Tech and worked as a part-time tool designer intern at the Dodge Manufactory before gaining full-time employment there for nine years. After the shutdown of the facility and a stint as a security guard at Notre Dame, Captain Boykins joined the SBPD in 1984. In 1991, Boykins was awarded officer of the year and named "BEST COP" by Executive Journal. In 2006 he was appointed Uniform Division Chief, and in 2009 was promoted to Police Chief. He has numerous departmental and community awards for his youth outreach and police work.

Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

John Charles Bryant



John Charles Bryant is a descendant of one of South Bend's first African American families. The Farrow-Powell family came to Indiana to escape the South, leaving Virginia and the Carolinas. "If you were a free black youth you had to leave those states, otherwise you would become an indentured slave. Our family left in the 1830's and settled in Spencer, Indiana." His grandfather worked at Studebaker, his father worked the tables at the Old LaSalle Hotel. His mother Georgia Bryant was an organist for 42 years at the Olivet AME Church, South Bend's first established African American church. He has traced his family back to 1755. Mr. Bryant has been a collector of black history memorabilia about the South Bend area. Much of his collection has been donated to the Northern Indiana Center for History. He also has donated African-American historical documents to the Mishawaka-Penn Public Library, South Bend Public Library Genealogy Department, and the Civil Rights Heritage Center of Indiana University South Bend. He has been active in the religious community, serving on the Council of Churches and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Bryant says South Bend has been good to him. "Be proud of your heritage."

Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Dr. Richmond Calvin



Dr. Richmond E. Calvin began his tenure at IUSB in 1972 as director of the career opportunities program and was a professor there for 30 years until his retirement in 2002. In 1990 he started teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level in the School of Education focusing primarily on the areas of School Administration, Teacher Education, and Counseling and Human Services.

Throughout Calvin's career, he has been an active member of Michiana, serving on boards and task forces for various issues affecting youth and minorities. He also has been on Memorial Hospital of South Bend's board of directors since 1997, as well as a part-time psychotherapist.

Calvin was named the Eldon Lundquist Faculty Fellow in 1990, a fellowship which honors a member of IUSB's faculty for teaching, scholarship and service to Michiana. He also received IU's W. George Pinnell Outstanding Service Award in 1990. The Dr. Richmond E. Calvin Scholarship was established in his honor to serve as a lasting reflection of his commitment to the educators of the future.



Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Dr. Virginia Calvin



Dr. Virginia Calvin has served our community as an educator and community leader for over 30 years. Beginning in 1972, Calvin held numerous administrative positions with the South Bend Community School Corporation. When serving as acting executive director of curriculum and instruction, Dr. Calvin initiated a “Valuing Diversity” program. As principal of Muesel School, she led the school to recognition as one of America’s Best Elementary Schools. When in 1993 she was named superintendent of South Bend schools, she was the first woman and first African American to hold that position. While serving as superintendent, Dr. Calvin moved the corporation out of a deficit, initiated various programs for at-risk students, increased school campus security and introduced new programs. Then on July 1, 2000, Dr. Calvin became chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College North Central, where she expanded the college’s mission from a career/ technical institution to a full-service community college. Dr. Calvin serves on the board of directors of several community organizations and holds several honors, including the Indiana state honor, Sagamore of the Wabash.



Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Lynn Coleman



Lynn has lived an extraordinary life of hard work and public service in his hometown of South Bend, a community that Lynn believes has given him more than he can ever repay. Having served the city in a number of positions, Coleman was a police officer for 23 years and began in 2000 as an assistant to the mayor. Also a former Police Officer of the Year, Coleman's passion has always been working to improve the lives of children. He has been involved with several youth initiatives and his commitment to community has inspired a number of grass-roots organizations, including "Let's Turn it Around" and "Men of Scars." He has served on numerous boards, committees and commissions on the state and local level. Continuing his dedication to children that began as a police officer, Lynn was a founding member of the ALWAYS KIDS Volunteer Advisory Council and is a longtime supporter of the Special Olympics, including serving as a Special Olympics basketball coach. Lynn's dedication to the community led to the honor of being named to the South Bend Hall of Fame and he has been further recognized for his outstanding work in the community with the Home Town Hero Award from the Children's Miracle Network, the Citizen of the Year Award from the National Association of Social Workers and the Urban Youth Service Man of the Year Award from the YMCA. Lynn is a graduate of Bethel College and his wife Myrtie earned her graduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, an institution she retired from after 30 years of service. They have one son, Aaron, an aspiring musician in Chicago. They are also the proud godparents to several young people from the South Bend community.

Lynn has said he is grateful that God has given him the opportunity to serve his community.

Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Bernice Freeman



Bernice Freeman worked for the Opportunities Industrial Center (OIC) of America founded by Dr. Leon Sullivan in 1984, where she helped participants gain basic educational skills and helped hundreds receive their GED'S. Her writing has been published in Emerge Magazine in 1994, and in 1998 she received the MLK Drum Major for Justice Award. Bernice has also been a key organizer for the US Marine Corp's Toys for Tots program, remaining involved for over thirty years. She founded the Reaching Out breast cancer awareness center and she has been breast cancer free for twenty-three years. Bernice was responsible for the street naming of Martin Luther King Dr. and currently works with young adult women at the Porch Light Program operated by the Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County. Bernice is a compassionate, committed, and courageous individual with a long history of service.



Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Verge “Brother Sage” Gillam



Brother Sage (Verge) Gillam is a well-known member of the African American community in South Bend. He hosted a radio show on WBSB from 1998 to 2009 in which he became known as “Brother Sage,” fitting to his role in the community as a source of wisdom, and consistent with the concept of a “Griot.” This term, pronounced GREE- O, is the French term for an African historian who passes down knowledge through oral tradition. Brother Sage has taken on the role as advisor and historian in a number of contexts in the local community.

Brother Sage created the local Black Man’s Think Tank, and taught “The African American Experience” at Southwest Michigan College and Indiana University South Bend. He is the Northern Indiana Representative for the Indiana Freedom Trails Project, which focuses on Underground Railroad History in the State of Indiana. He shares information about his family, their history since slavery, and himself in a way that helps young people relate to the African American experience, which is often misunderstood. He introduces methods of understanding that are impossible to accomplish through history books.

Black History Month

South Bend Honors...

May Lee Johnson



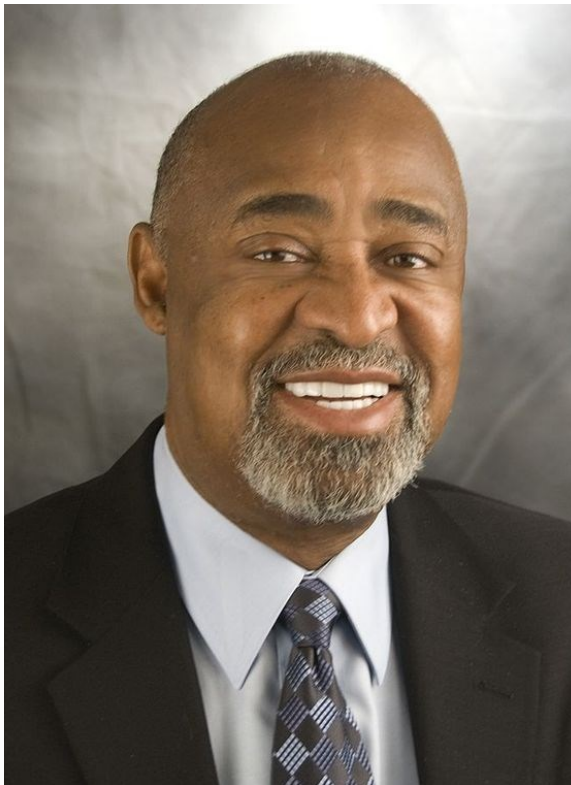
May Lee Johnson is a lifetime resident of South Bend, where she grew up on the West Side and was educated in both public and Catholic schools. She graduated from St. Joseph High School, and subsequently from IU-South Bend and The Freedom Forum Diversity Institute at Vanderbilt University. Growing up on the West Side, May Lee confronted numerous everyday challenges, but she was also a witness to the unique contributions that her community made to South Bend. Her newspaper column, “Tales from the West Side,” which honors these unsung heroes of the South Bend community, ran in the South Bend Tribune for over seven years. In addition, she wrote a book entitled “Coming Up on the Roughside: A Black Catholic Story.” Johnson has been praised for her compassion, her ability to bring people to life on the page, and for her commitment to telling stories that would otherwise have gone unheard. She retired from the South Bend Tribune in 2014 after many years of dedicated service. She continues to serve her community by working with senior citizens—training them for new employment opportunities and teaching trade skills.



Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Robert Benjamin Johnson



Robert Benjamin Johnson is known for his personal integrity, political savvy and toughness. His expertise spans four decades of nationally recognized leadership in management and public policy. He graduated from Central High School and the Indiana Military Academy, where he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Johnson was the first African-American to run for mayor in 1975. In 1979 he began working in the White House as director of consumer programs for President Jimmy Carter. In 1993 he joined the staff of President Bill Clinton and served for eight years. In the Clinton White House he was associate director in the Office of Public Liaison and then special assistant, responsible for outreach to the African-American community. He later became deputy assistant to president, which included outreach to seniors, Hispanics, Jews and the disabled. He is one of the longest-serving African-American staff members in White House history.



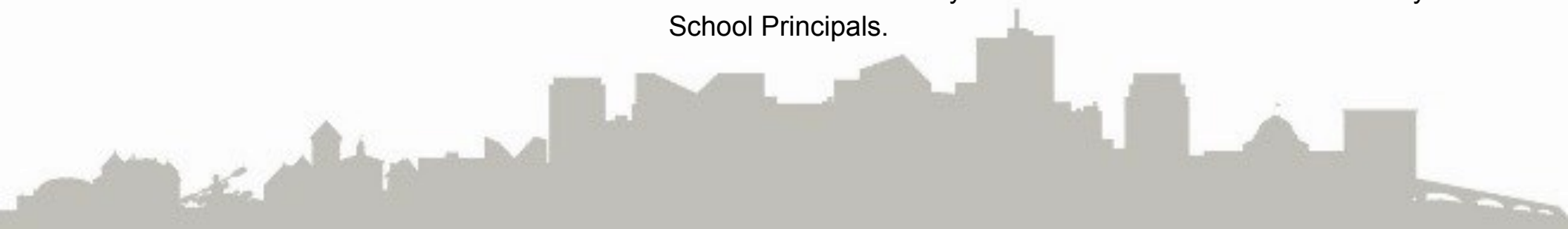
Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

George McCullough



Born and raised in South Bend, George W. McCullough Jr. succeeded as a star athlete at Washington High School. Later he completed numerous degrees at Indiana University South Bend and began a career in education. He became principal at James Whitcomb Riley High School in 1989. While at Riley, he initiated new programs and spearheaded an impressive building project, resulting in a state-of-the-art facility. In 1998 he was awarded the prestigious National Educator Award from the Milken Family Foundation, an award for which he received a \$25,000 grant and recognition as one of the finest educators in the nation. In 2001, Mr. McCullough moved to Washington High School to serve as principal of his alma mater. He has implemented several innovative programs, including Freshman Academy and a Medical Science/Allied Health program at Washington. In 2003, he was named Principal of the Year for District II by the Indiana Association of Secondary School Principals.



Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Gladys Muhammad



Gladys was born in Mississippi, the 7th into a family of 17 children where she gained her first experience in understanding community. She has lived in South Bend since moving here in 1947 when she was three, and grew up among people who were involved in community issues. She learned her community, its strengths and its weaknesses, while working as the first director of the YWCA's Shelter for Battered Women (1978-1984), as the Deputy Director of the South Bend's Department of Code Enforcement (1984 – 1986) and as the Associate Director of South Bend Heritage, its Community Organizer, and its Director of the Colfax Campus (1986 to the present). This adds up to over 35 years in a community organizer and resident leadership role.

In her early years with South Bend Heritage, she had training in community organizing at the Gamaliel Foundation and the Change Agent Project (Center for Community Change, Washington D.C.). As a result, she was invited to participate in President Clinton's roundtable on neighborhoods held in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Neighborhoods.

Locally, Gladys' participation is sought to be on many boards and/or committees that address issues of concern for the community. In 1987, she was a catalyst in creating the Martin Luther King, Jr., Foundation of St. Joseph County, Indiana, and through this organization proceeded to facilitate the MLK Day of Celebration activities for the next 26 years. Starting in 1988 with the first Annual Red Ribbon March Against Drugs and Violence in South Bend, she has continued to facilitate the organization of this march. She was a Commissioner for the South Bend Housing Authority. She gathered together a number of prominent African American citizens to form the African American Community Fund under the auspices of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. She fought for the establishment of a Civil Rights Heritage Center in the former Engman Natatorium that is now run by the Indiana University South Bend. She has worked with Bridges Out of Poverty and with Memorial (Hospital) Health Foundation. In the 1980's, she actively challenged the local banks about meeting their CRA responsibilities and requirements and as a result has provided them names for their committees on diversity, and has been named to some of these committees herself.

Gladys also educates students in the public schools about black history through performances as Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth.

In 1994, Gladys was pronounced the YWCA Woman of the Year and was inducted into the South Bend Hall of Fame. In 1998, former Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon presented her with the Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest civilian award in the State of Indiana. In 1999, she was the National Social Worker Association Citizen of the Year and received the Indiana University South Bend Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2007, she was given the Key to the City of South Bend. The Honorable Joe Donnelly, then the 2nd district representative to Congress, paid tribute to Gladys Muhammad-Ward on March 13, 2008, and the content of his speech is in the Congressional Record Volume 154, Number 43.

Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Charlotte Pfeifer-Gillam



Charlotte D. Pfeifer-Gillam is a native Ohioan who grew up in Michigan and has lived in South Bend, Indiana for the last forty nine years where she raised her family. She graduated from Indiana University South Bend with a BA in History and an MPA in Public Affairs.

Charlotte had an outstanding career in corrections where she began as an intern probation officer in Adult Probation and ended up as the Executive Director of Community Based Corrections of St. Joseph County.

After leaving corrections she established a private consulting group, ***Charlotte Pfeifer & Associates***. The agency specializes in Diversity Training, Board Development, and Community Outreach for Companies, Businesses, and Social Services Agencies. The specialty is establishing safety to allow the experience of training on sensitive issues to flourish in a non-threatening manner.

Charlotte was hired at IU South Bend in 1995 as the Director of Campus Diversity and later became the Director of Judicial Affairs. She retired from Indiana University as a professional staff member in 2013 but remains as an Associate Faculty member teaching part-time in the Department of Women's & Gender Studies as well as teaching for the School of Social Work. Her areas of teaching are diversity, pluralism, multiculturalism, undoing racism, and confronting bias.

She served the City of South Bend as an elected official as a member of the South Bend Common Council from 1995-2007. Charlotte was the first Black Council President and repeated as president two additional terms. Her areas of interest while on the council were neighborhood development/revitalization and human rights.

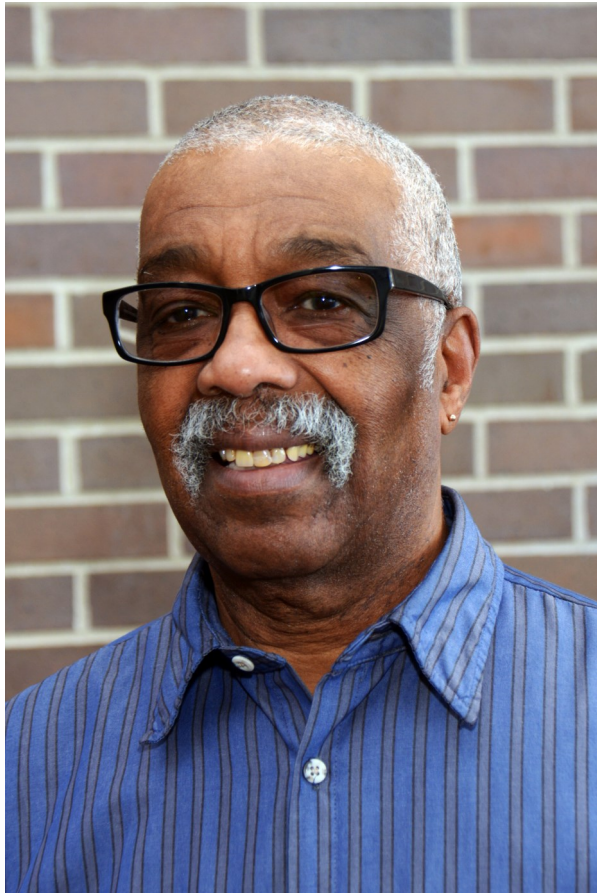
She has been shown appreciation by the community with numerous awards and recognitions to mention and continues to serve her ***"Beloved Community"*** by serving on community boards and organizations.

Charlotte is married to Verge Gillam and enjoys her family, friends, and living in her neighborhood.

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South Bend Salutes...

Jack Reed



Jack Reed is a Riley High School graduate who wanted to be an Indiana State Trooper but had to change his goals and worked for the City of South Bend for 47 years as a firefighter and assistant to the mayor. Appointed to the rank of captain in 1972, he became the first African-American riding chief in the fire department. The current mayor called him a 'model civil servant'. A man who is full of energy with a big heart, he is well known for his big smile and warm handshake and can often be seen lending a hand to the needy. He has served on numerous boards and committees including DARE, South Bend Heritage Foundation, REAL Services, Disabilities Rights Commission and Juvenile Justice Center-Child Protection.



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South Bend Salutes...

Debra Stanley



A native of South Bend, IN, Debra M. Stanley began working in the South Bend community in 1992 at the Chapin Street Health clinic assisting the medical staff by addressing the social needs of patients. It was there that she became aware of the emerging issue of HIV/AIDS in the South Bend community. In 1993 she began working for AIDS Ministries/AIDS Assist and served for the next eleven years as the Coordinator and Director of Prevention Education. In 2003 Debra had a vision to start her own organization. Debra has been a public and enduring advocate for AIDS education, with much of the AIDS education in north-central Indiana attributable to her. "Imani Unidad", which translates to "Faith and Unity". Through this organization she provides therapeutic counseling, social, educational and advocacy services. She and Imani Unidad positively impact the South Bend community through their programs infusing social justice into social and sexual health.



Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Luther Taylor



Luther Taylor began his career with the South Bend Fire Department in 1972. Over the years, he was promoted through the ranks, finally being appointed chief by Mayor Roger Parent in October 1985. He would hold that position for 21 years. In 2004, Mayor Steve Luecke granted Taylor a one-year leave of absence to serve as director of the State Emergency Management Agency under former Gov. Joe Kernan. He was responsible for maintaining a level of readiness to respond to any emergency that might occur or threaten within the state. He returned as South Bend's fire chief in 2005. He has served as president of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association, chair of the Indiana Emergency Response Committee, and board member of the local Red Cross. After his retirement in 2007, he became manager of emergency preparedness at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center. In 2014, the Luther J. Taylor Sr. Fire Training Center was dedicated in his name.

Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Lester Townsend



Almost seven months before the last time the Chicago Cubs won their last World Series in 1908, one of their biggest future fans, Lester Townsend, was born in Cairo, Illinois. He is the third oldest of ten children. Lester came to South Bend in 1929. He was employed with Studebaker and then served the South Bend Community School Corporation as a custodian and delivery driver for 16 years before retiring in 1973. He later also worked security at Key Bank. Lester resides in South Bend where his two daughters care for him. Lester's grandfather was a slave, and to live to see Barack Obama become the first African American president of the United States of America was a sight to see. On March 31, 2015, Lester turned 107 years old, and he says his secret to longevity is prayer. He is a devoted member of the New Salem Baptist Church in South Bend. Lester is also a major advocate for the civil duty of voting. There once was a time when African Americans had to fight for their right to vote. Lester still gets out to exercise his right to vote in every election. Lester says, "I never missed voting because that is the only ammunition that we have. When you fail to pull the trigger its not serving any purpose."

Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Jake Webster



“Good art happens in Indiana. I want folks to know — before you go to Chicago, before you go to New York — you ought to look at your neighbors first.” Jake Webster has been carving since 1974 and painting for at least a decade prior to that. He traveled the world before putting down roots in northern Indiana more than 15 years ago. Jake’s art expresses the humanistic quality of people, their communities, and the environment. He strives to educate, to create conversation through his art, and to get people to ask important questions. Jake’s talents have been instrumental in exposing South Bend youth to the arts. He has inspired and motivated them to explore their own gifts and abilities, and has showed them a constructive way to channel their passions. “[Art] gives us a way of communicating without pointing fingers or shaking our fists,” he has said. Throughout his career, Jake has been recognized with numerous local, state, and national awards. He continues to give back to the community by organizing exhibitions and by holding art workshops for people of all ages.



Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Clara White



Clara M. White, born January 29, 1917 in Indianapolis, IN, moved to South Bend in October 1945 with her late husband, Reverend Bernard L. White, Sr., who served as the Pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church for thirty-one years, and their six children. Mrs. White or Mother White as she is often referred to was the first African-American Crossing Guard for the South Bend Public School System, and one of the city's first Black Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN). She received her nursing education and training at St. Joseph Hospital's School of Nursing in the 1960s, and worked as a nurse until her retirement in 1991.

In 1963, Mrs. White had the honor of hosting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in her home following Dr. King's visit to Notre Dame. She was also recognized as a Trailblazer by the IU-South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center in 2012. Today, Mrs. White, age 99, enjoys being a Great Great Grandmother, and she spends her time with family in Washington, DC, Texas and Indiana.



Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Karen White



Service to family, community, and education are the hallmarks of Karen L. White's journey. Born in Buffalo, New York, Karen relocated to South Bend at an early age. She attended Harrison Elementary School and graduated from Central High School. Ms. White received her Bachelor's Degree in psychology and social work from Indiana State University, Terre Haute. Her Master's in Education was earned from Indiana University. Karen is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Services/Dean of Students at Indiana University South Bend where she has served for more than 40 years in various capacities.

Karen White has been honored to serve as an at-large council person since January 1, 2000. From her early years on the South Bend Community School Board of Trustees until today as Council Member, Ms. White has devoted over 28 years of service to the community as an elected official. Karen has always served our city with distinction and integrity and is known as the "voice of reason" on the South Bend Common Council.

As a member of the South Bend Common Council, Karen has been Council President, Vice President, Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole (which chairs all public hearings on proposed ordinances), and as chair of the Personal & Finance And Community Relations Committees and Vice Chair for the Healthy & Public Safety and Residential Neighborhood Committees.

Karen's road to community service began while she was a high school student and continued throughout her college and professional life. A firm believer in the tenet, as Marian Wright Edelman has stated, "Service is the rent we pay for living." She is the only African American who has served both as the President of the South Bend Community School Corporation Board of Directors, and as President of the South Bend Common Council.

Long recognized for her exemplary administrative leadership skills and commitment to community service, Karen is the recipient of multiple awards, a member of numerous boards all of which focus on community betterment. She was chair of the Committee of the Whole in 2015. Her commitment to improving our neighborhoods and ensuring that they have the high quality services are her top priorities.

Black History Month

South Bend Salutes...

Bobbie Woods



Bobbie Woods, a native of South Bend, is President and one of the founding members of Mamas Against Violence (MAV). She has been employed by A Beautiful Mind, Psychological and Counseling Agency for the past ten years. In 2011, she obtained her Bachelor Degree from Bethel College. She serves as a board member for St Joseph County Department of Correction (DOC), is a member of South Bend Group Violence Intervention (SBGVI), and serves as a spokesperson for the call-in initiatives.

Shortly after the death of her only son, Terrill Woods, Bobbie and four other women formed the organization Mamas Against Violence in 2003. For the past thirteen years she has dedicated her life to providing support to grieving mothers, victim's families, and helping educate the community, especially our youth, about the effects of violence. Bobbie speaks at schools, churches, and at community events whenever the topic relates to violence prevention. Bobbie is also a member of Women Across the Nation Making a Difference (WANMAD), a national organization of women coming together as one against gun violence.

Bobbie has been married for 42 years to Anthony Woods. They have three children, one son (deceased) and two daughters, ten grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Bobbie believes that if she can help prevent one mother from losing a child as a result of senseless violence, then it's worth all of her efforts. Her motto is "If I could touch just one life."